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# PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

## TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.88

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 48th meeting, held on 13 December 1993, the Second Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.88, without a vote. A statement of programme budget implications was before the Committee in document A/C.2/48/L.84. Although the statement was based on draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.71, which was replaced by draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.88, it was also applicable as amended to draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.88.

## A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. By operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.88, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to examine, in conformity with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 47/227 of 8 April 1993, the measures taken in 1993 with a view to further improving the organization and coordination of the training programmes and research activities of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) relating to training in New York, and to provide appropriate logistical and administrative support, within existing resources;

(b) Recommend that, as an interim measure and without budgetary implications, the full-time senior fellows shall continue in their functions and status until a final decision is taken in this regard, on the basis of the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute during its June session, but no later than 1 July 1994.

B. Administrative and financial arrangements

3. In paragraph 2 of resolution 47/227 the General Assembly decided that the headquarters of the Institute should be transferred to Geneva, and requested the Secretary-General to designate a liaison officer to organize and coordinate the existing training programmes and research activities relating to training in New York, within existing resources, drawing as appropriate on the services of senior fellows who were to be funded from voluntary contributions to the Institute. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General designated the Chief of the Training Service, Office of Human Resources Management, Department of Administration and Management, as the focal point to ensure a smooth transition for the organizational arrangements of UNITAR and to coordinate the remaining New York-based training programmes. While the continued provision of a focal point to coordinate the remaining New York-based training programmes could be accommodated within existing resources in accordance with operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.88, appropriate logistical and administrative support to training programmes and research activities related to training in New York could not be provided without additional cost.

4. Article VI, "Full-time senior fellows, fellows, consultants, correspondents and advisory bodies", of the amended statute of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research states:

> "1. The Secretary-General may appoint, for a renewable period of one year, a small number of qualified persons to serve on a full-time basis free of charge for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), as full-time senior fellows of the Institute. Such persons, who may be invited to participate as lecturers or research scholars, shall be selected on the basis of outstanding contributions that they have made in fields germane to the work of the Institute, but they shall not be considered as members of the staff of the Institute or of the United Nations. They shall, however, have the status of officials of the United Nations for purposes of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. 1/ For the duration of their appointment, they may only undertake concurrent, remunerated activities with the prior authorization of the Secretary-General, in which latter event that may receive honoraria not exceeding the amounts prescribed by the General Assembly for United Nations retirees. The other criteria and terms and conditions of service for their appointment shall be governed by the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.
>
> "5. Fellows, correspondents and other additional personnel of the Institute shall be financed from special-purpose grants."

5. As indicated in paragraph 4 above, in accordance with the amended statute of UNITAR, the responsibility for appointing or extending the appointment of the full-time senior fellows rests with the Secretary-General. No recommendations or other actions by Board of Trustees in respect of senior fellows is envisaged in the statute of UNITAR.

6. Although the continuation of the senior fellows in their functions and status, as requested in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, does not

entail any remuneration, it would nevertheless involve expenditures for rental of office space for the senior fellows as well as provision of office equipment, communications and miscellaneous services.

7. In accordance with paragraph 5 of article VI of the statute of UNITAR and as decided by the General Assembly in paragraph 3 of its resolution 47/227, all the administrative budget and the training programmes of the Institute would have to be covered from voluntary contributions, donations, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads available to UNITAR, and not from the United Nations regular budget. Therefore, the expenditures related to the continuation of senior fellows would have to be met from such sources. Moreover, all expenditures from such UNITAR funds require the prior review and approval of related budgets by the Board of Trustees of UNITAR, in accordance with article III, paragraph 2, and article VIII, paragraph 1, of the Statute.

8. In the circumstances, if the United Nations Institute for Training and Research is unable to cover the costs of the logistical and administrative support relating to training in New York (see paras. 2 (a) and 3 above), as well as expenditures for rental of office space, provision of office equipment, communications and miscellaneous services relating to senior fellows (see paras. 5-6), the Secretary-General would not be authorized to cover such costs from the regular budget of the United Nations, unless the General Assembly should decide otherwise.

## C. Summary

9. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.88, all logistical and administrative expenditures, including supporting activities of senior fellows, provision of office space in Geneva and New York and other support services, would have to be financed exclusively from voluntary contributions, donations, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads of UNITAR, if such resources are available.

## Notes

1/ General Assembly resolution 22 A (I); see also United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. I, No. 1-4, p. 15.

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# PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

# INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

# WORLD CONFERENCE ON NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

## Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.24

## Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 47th meeting, on 10 December 1993, the Second Committee adopted without a vote draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.24. A statement of programme budget implications was before the Committee in document A/C.2/48/L.62.

### A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 6 to 10, 13, 14 and 17 of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.24, the General Assembly would:

(a) Convene the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in 1994 with the following objectives:

(i) To review the accomplishments of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction at national, regional and international levels;

(ii) To chart a programme of action for the future;

(iii) To exchange information on the implementation of Decade programmes and policies;

(iv) To increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies;

(b) Accept with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Japan to host the Conference, and decide that the Conference will be held at Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994;

(c) Decide to establish a Preparatory Committee, which will meet at Geneva no later than February 1994 for five days to review organizational and substantive preparations for the Conference, to approve the programme of work of the Conference and to propose rules of procedure for adoption by the Conference, on the basis of recommendations submitted by the secretariat of the Decade, after consultation with the host country;

(d) Request the secretariat of the Decade to serve as the secretariat of the Conference and to coordinate preparatory activities in close cooperation with the host Government and the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, with the full support of relevant departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat;

(e) Recognize the importance of broad and multidisciplinary participation in the Conference and, to this end, request the Secretary-General to invite to the Conference all States, national committees for the Decade and organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as concerned intergovernmental organizations and scientific associations, relevant non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

(f) Decide that the preparatory process and the Conference itself should be funded through existing budgetary resources, without negatively affecting programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

(g) Request the Secretary-General to appeal to all Member States to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the financing of the additional activities required in preparing for and holding the Conference;

(h) Request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including the findings of the mid-term review of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to be carried out by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994.

## B. Relationship of proposed requests to the medium-term plan and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

3. The requests contained in paragraph 1 above would relate to major programme VII (Human rights, fundamental freedoms and humanitarian affairs), programme 37 (Emergency humanitarian assistance), subprogramme 2 (Disaster prevention and preparedness) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 1/

and to section 23 (Department of Humanitarian Affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. 2/

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

4. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.24, the secretariat for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction would serve as the secretariat for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, and would coordinate the preparatory activities in close cooperation with the host Government and the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. It would also prepare the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

D. Additional requirements at full cost

5. The full cost of providing conference servicing for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction to be held from 23 to 27 May 1994, and one session of its Preparatory Committee to be held in Geneva in 1994, is estimated at $709,600 as detailed below. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243, the additional costs of convening the Conference outside Geneva would be the responsibility of the host Government.

(a) World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction

Conference-servicing costs (5 days)

| | $ |
|---|---|
| Pre-session documentation (250 pages, 12 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S) | 274 000 |
| Meeting servicing (Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S) | 120 600 |
| In-session documentation (125 pages, 10 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S) | 140 300 |
| Post-session documentation (50 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S) | 53 700 |
| Total | 588 600 |

(b) Preparatory Committee

Conference-servicing costs (5 days)

| | $ |
|---|---|
| Pre-session documentation (20 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S) | 21 900 |
| Meeting servicing (Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S) | 60 300 |
| In-session documentation (15 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S) | 16 900 |
| Post-session documentation (20 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S) | 21 900 |
| Total | 121 000 |
| Grand total for conference-servicing costs: | 709 600 |

6. It is also estimated that the secretariat for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction would require the services of additional staff and consultants to assist with the preparatory process and the proceedings of the Conference. These and other costs related to the preparatory process and the convening of the Conference, which would be funded through extrabudgetary resources, are summarized below:

Additional requirements of the Decade secretariat

| | $ |
|---|---|
| General temporary assistance (equivalent to 5 months each for 3 P-5 and 3 GS (other level) posts) | 272 500 |
| Overtime | 10 000 |
| Consultants' fees and travel | 70 000 |
| Travel of staff | 50 000 |
| Hospitality | 25 000 |
| General operating expenses | 67 000 |
| Production and dissemination of promotional material | 150 000 |
| Total | 644 500 |

7. Furthermore, it is anticipated that travel and daily subsistence costs to attend the Conference would be incurred for the 25 members of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the 10 members of the Special High-level Council and for

one representative of each least developed country. These costs would be funded through extrabudgetary resources and are summarized below:

| Travel and daily subsistence costs of participants | $ |
|---|---|
| (a) Travel and subsistence costs for members of the Special High-level Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee to participate in the Conference | 206 800 |
| (b) Travel and subsistence costs for representatives of least developed countries to participate in the Conference | 233 400 |
| Total | 440 200 |

## E. Potential for absorption

8. With regard to the conference-servicing requirements of $709,600, these cost estimates are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing costs would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1994-1995. However, the level of resources for temporary assistance for meetings has been estimated on the basis of previous experience to accommodate not only meetings known at the time of the budget preparations, but also meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1994-1995 was consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution.

## F. Summary

9. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.24, no additional appropriation would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

10. The additional costs which would be incurred by the Decade secretariat ($644,500) and the travel and subsistence costs for members of the Special High-level Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee, and for representatives of the least developed countries ($440,200) would be funded through the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol.II.

2/ A/48/6 (Sect. 23).

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